

## Lands and Seas

1. Mt Waialeale in Kauai, Hawaii sees rain up to 350 days per year.
2. The largest desert is the Sahara, located in North Africa. It is 3,500,000 square miles in area, over 24 times the size of Japan.
3. The largest island country in the world is Indonesia, at 735,358 square miles.
4. The deepest point in the deepest ocean is in the Pacific ocean (Marianas Trench), measuring at a little over 35,000 ft or 10,000 m. That would be 29 times the height of the Empire State Building.

God has indeed created some interesting and wonderful things. Although some people go through life without thinking too much about it, there is no way we breathe the way we do or koalas sleep that many hours unless God has planned it that way. If any one aspect was to come to an imbalance, the world would be in chaos. Whether we recognize it or not, we need to remember that God treats every one of His creations in a special way. But it is only when we acknowledge Him that He will direct our paths (Prov 3:5-7) and find that strength and love that no one else can offer.

## REFLECTION & PRAYER



*The true God has created all things. He controls, protects and reigns over the universe. The wise will trust the Lord with their hearts because they know that God will continue to provide all that they need. We need to remember to give thanks and give all glory to God.*

## Lesson 4

# Great is the Lord

### Listed Scriptures

Psalms 139

### Lesson Aim

- 1) To understand God's omnipotence, omniscience and omnipresence
- 2) To recognize that God is above all else and He is the only One worthy of our praise

### Memory Verse

"The eyes of the LORD are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good." (Prov 15:3)

### Bible Reading For This Week (for students and teachers)

Psalms 16-20

## BIBLE BACKGROUND



The True God is the Lord of all creation. He controls life and death, and He gives poverty and wealth (1 Sam 2:6-7). In short, He determines the life of a person. King David understood the greatness of God. In his psalms, he reflected, "When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have ordained, what is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You visit him?" (Ps 8:3-4). From this we see that if a person is wise, he will be able to understand the magnificence of God. In this lesson, we will look at the greatness of God from three perspectives: His omniscience, His omnipotence, and His omnipresence.



Have the students turn to Hymn 314, "How Great Thou Art". After singing through it once, ask them to think about the lyrics and how wonderful and marvellous our Lord God really is. If they had to pick one thing, what amazes them most about God and His power?

## B I B L E S T U D Y

## Part 1

*An Omniscient God*

The Bible tells us that the one and only God knows everything. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight (Rom 16:27; 1 Jn 3:20). He knows all of our thoughts, words, and actions.


**A . God Sees the Actions of People (Ps 139:3)**

- In David's poetry, he wrote, "O LORD, You have searched me and known me. You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off. You comprehend my path and my lying down."
- W.C. Martin wrote in "My Father Watches Over Me" (Hymn 155), "I trust in God wherever I may be, upon the land or on the rolling sea, for, come what may, from day to day, my heavenly Father watches over me."
- God knew the hardships Jacob endured in the house of Laban (Gen 31:38-42, 23-24).
- God saw Achan take the coveted objects (Josh 7:10-26).
- God remembered the kind deeds of Cornelius (Acts 10:1-4).
- We should not live according to our fleshly desires because we will be judged by God in the end. We especially have to be cautious about our actions in our youth (Eccl 11:9-10).


**B . God Hears the Words We Say (Ps 139:4)**

- God heard the words which the Syrian King spoke in his bedroom. Thus, he was able to tell the prophet Elisha and protect the Israelites from harm (1 Kgs 6:8-12).
- No matter what we say, the Lord hears it. The Bible tells us, "For every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned" (Mt 12:36-37). Therefore, we should bridle our tongues so that we do not stumble on our words (Jas 1:26, 3:2; Prov 10:19).
- We must also stop ourselves from lying (Rev 14:5, 21:8), slandering (1 Cor 6:10) and judging (Mt 7:1). Filthiness, foolish talking and coarse jesting should also be avoided. Instead, we should give thanks (Eph 5:4).


**C . God Knows the Heart of Man (Ps 139:2)**

- God knows our hearts (Acts 15:8). He knew that Sarah laughed in her heart at God's promise of a child in her old age.
- God knew that Abimelech was righteous in his heart and kept him from sinning with Sarah (Gen 20:6).
- Because God examines our hearts, He knows each person's thoughts. Thus, we should pursue the knowledge of God and serve Him eagerly (1 Chron 28:9).
- Because the Lord examines our hearts, we must also keep our hearts above all else (1 Sam 16:7; Prov 4:3). We should not have hearts that are not right in the sight of God (Acts 8:21; Mt 5:28).

## Part 2

*An Omnipotent God*

There is nothing that the almighty God cannot do (Gen 17:1, 18:14). Jesus Christ said, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible" (Job 37:23; Mt 19:26).

## **A. Creation**

- a. God created all things in the past (Heb 11:3; Gen 1:1). Now, He continues to rule over all (Ps 119:91; 2 Pet 3:7).
- b. God once commanded the sun and the moon to stand still for one day, until the Israelites defeated their enemy (Josh 10:12-14).
- c. God told a donkey to open its mouth to speak to Balaam (Num 22:28-30).
- d. He arranged for a great fish to swallow Jonah and spit him out after three days (Jonah 1:17, 2:10).
- e. God kept the widow's jar of oil and flour from running dry (1 Kgs 17:14-16) and allowed Elisha to feed one hundred men from twenty loaves of bread (2 Kgs 4:42-44).

## **B. People**

- a. God performs according to His word (Dan 4:35). He allowed a hundred-year-old Abraham to have a son (Gen 21:2-5).
- b. He cleansed Naaman's leprosy (2 Kgs 5:14).
- c. He resurrected a dead person (1 Kgs 17:17-23, 2 Kgs 4:32-37).
- d. He allowed Enoch and Elijah to ascend to Heaven without dying (Gen 5:24; 2 Kgs 2:11).
- e. He blinded the commander of the Syrian army (2 Kgs 6:18-20).

## **C. Other Things**

- a. God has the authority to bind Satan (Rev 20:1-3).
- b. Great and powerful angels listen to His commands and fulfill His will (Ps 103:20).

- c. Nations, kings and judges are nothing before God (Isa 40:15-17, 22-23).
- d. No one can see though the Omniscient and Omnipotent God (Job 11:7-11).



### Part 3

### *An Omnipresent God*

God's spirit fills the heavens and the earth (Jer 23:23-24). King David wrote, "Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend into heaven, You are there; if I make my bed in Hell, behold, You are there" (Ps 139:7-8).

## **A. Above All People (Eph 4:6)**

- a. The True God makes His throne in the heavens, and His authority reigns over all things (Ps 103:19).
- b. His spirit is holy and reigns above all. He lives in the high place (Is 57:15).
- c. Man cannot approach His radiance (1 Tim 6:16).
- d. Although He lives in the highest place, God is humble and watches all things that are happening on earth (Ps 113:5-6). He will look after and save all those who seek His loving mercy (Ps 33:18-19, 38:15).

## **B. Among All People (Eph 4:6)**

- a. God protects His people from now to forever (Ps 125:2).
- b. God is spirit and fills all things. He works between the believers and within the church. He has said, "I will dwell in them, and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people" (2 Cor 6:16).
- c. A church with God's presence is a church filled with the Holy Spirit. In such a church, the believers will be of good comfort, be of one mind, and live in peace because the God of peace is with them (2 Cor 13:11).

- d. God said in Ezekiel, "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them" (Ezek 36:26-27).
- e. God also dwells within people who have a humble spirit (Isa 57:15). We know that God lives within us because He has given us His Holy Spirit (1 Jn 3:24, 4:13). In the New Testament, Jesus Christ told His disciples, "I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever – the Spirit of Truth...but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you" (Jn 14:16-17)

### Teaching Tips

*Since this lesson focuses on the three OMNI aspects of God, you may wish to divide the students into three groups to study each section. They can present their findings to the rest of the class, by giving examples of how God is omnipresent, omnipotent and omniscient. You can then supplement their sharing with the information provided in the Bible Study section.*

### C H E C K F O R U N D E R S T A N D I N G



**1** Provide an example to show how Jesus Christ is an omniscient God.

**2** Provide an example to show how Jesus Christ is an omnipotent God.

**3** Provide an example to show how Jesus Christ is an omnipresent God.

**4** Have you ever really stopped to think about the fact that Jesus Christ knows everything that you do, say or think? How does that make you feel? Has it at any one time affected the way you behave? Explain your answer.

### L I F E A P P L I C A T I O N



### Great People

There have been many great people (as considered by most) in our time. Take a look at the list provided and read about their lives, summarized in brief. If you had to vote, who would you consider the greatest person? If you have someone in mind who is not on this list (and there are many out there, i.e., more recent figures like Bill Gates), feel free to add it on but be ready to explain your reasons. The people are listed in no particular order.

1. Johannes Gutenberg (1394?-1468)

Gutenberg developed the printing press in the 1430s. Although the Chinese had movable type for centuries before Gutenberg, they used it for silk printing, not book printing. Copies of Gutenberg's first major project, the Bible, survive today.

2. Martin Luther (1483-1546)

Martin Luther nailed his Ninety-five Theses to the door of Wittenberg's castle church on October 31, 1517. His paper denounced the many sins that had crept into Christianity and started a reformation that lasted for a century and a half.

3. Galileo Galilei (1564-1642)

Galileo built the first astronomical telescope, discovered the craters of the moon and revealed the laws of bodies in motion.

4. Wilbur (1867-1912) and Orville Wright (1871-1948)

Although they were not the first to invent the airplane, the Wright brothers were the first to fly a powered, manned airplane. Weighing in at 750 pounds, including the pilot, the plane flew into history on December 17, 1903, and stayed in the air for 59 seconds.

5. Louis Pasteur (1822-1895)

Pasteur theorized that germs attack the body from the outside. In fact, his name graces milk and juice cartons for his pasteurization process, which safeguards drinks and foods by killing harmful germs with heat. He also developed many vaccines that have saved countless lives.

6. Thomas Edison (1847-1931)

Edison patented the electric light bulb, the phonograph and the movie projector.

7. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)

When Mozart was twelve, he wrote his first opera. Before his death at age 34, he created dozens of concertos, operas and symphonies that have been performed and enjoyed by many over and over again for the past two centuries.

8. Alexander Fleming (1881-1955)

Fleming was the one who discovered penicillin, a drug that has saved countless lives. He shared a Nobel prize in medicine with Harold Florey and Ernst Chain, who developed the antibiotic for mass production in the early 1940s. Their work created the most important series of drugs ever—antibiotics.

9. John Eckert (1919-1995)

Although John Muchly conceived the Electrical Numerical Integrator and Computer (ENIAC) to calculate artillery trajectories for the U.S. Army, it was Eckert who built it. It weighed thirty tons and contained 18,000 vacuum tubes and 70,000 resistors. Thus the computer age was born.

10. Peter the Great (1672-1725)

Posing as a sergeant, Peter the Great traveled through Holland, England and Austria in 1697-1698 and took note of all the great technological innovations of those countries. Then he went back home and launched a program to create Russia's first navy and modernized its military. He even designed some of the guns himself. He is known as the czar who built Russia into a great power.

11. Francis of Assisi (1181-1226)

Assisi was the founder of the Franciscan Order. After a long illness, he turned to religion and decided to follow Jesus Christ's example of living in poverty. He began to preach and care for the sick and begged for his food daily. As his reputation spread, he attracted followers who wanted to share his life. They settled near a leper colony at Assisi, Italy, where they lived in huts. Two years after his death, he was made a saint.

12. Christopher Columbus (1451-1506)

Columbus was the most famous explorer of his time. He discovered the "New World" of the Americas. At first, he traveled west, hoping to reach Asia by crossing the Atlantic but instead he landed in the islands of the Caribbean. On his three subsequent trips, he explored more of America, not realizing he had not reached Asia.

The people mentioned above were all famous for one reason or another. Perhaps

they were scientists who revolutionized the world or great leaders who unified lands. Or it could be they were just artists who brought us much enjoyment. No matter what the reason, many people consider them great because had it not been for them, the world might not be as we know it today. But as great as these people were, how do they compare to God, the greatest Creator of all? Why is it that we are quick to praise people for their great achievements and inventions when it is God who has given them the talent and provided all that is needed for them to "discover"? If it weren't for God, there would be no universe, much less anything else we are enjoying today. In what way do you appreciate the greatness of God?

R E F L E C T I O N & P R A Y E R



*From this lesson, we have come to understand that God is an all-knowing and all-powerful God. But that is not enough. We must really get to know this God on a personal level and that is not always easy. To get to know an omniscient God, we need to be careful of our own actions, words, and thoughts. Otherwise, we would be fooling ourselves. As we understand that God is omnipotent, we need to come before His mercy seat without fear. He is our refuge, and our help in times of need (Ps 46:1). Lastly, by knowing God as the omnipresent God, we should also be humble and kneel before His great power. We should ask for the presence of God to be with us daily, so that He may protect and guide us and that we may live our lives in Him forever.*